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— 1/15/94

FYI

Hired guns—The approval by the House of the ban on rapid-fire "killer guns" was close—216 to 214. In the end, the pivotal vote was cast by Rep. Andrew Jacobs (D-IN), an ex-Marine and ex-cop from Indianapolis who has been in office for 28 years. He started out by voting "no." But as the roll call tally tilted toward defeat, he changed his vote to "yes." Ronald Reagan helped, too. After receiving a Reagan letter urging passage, Representative Dick Swett (D-NH) also changed his mind. For voting "yes," Swett began getting telephoned death threats and now wears a bullet-proof vest.

Confident that it was buying the defeat of an assault weapons ban, the political action committee of the National Rifle Association (NRA) had given more than \$535,000 in campaign contributions to House members. The money was focused heavily on freshman Representatives, elected in 1992 and facing voters again this November. But the NRA miscomputed the newcomers' inclinations.

More than half the 115 freshmen (and women) rebuffed the NRA, voting 64 to 51 to support the gun-control law.

Progress—In the four decades since the Supreme Court's unanimous school desegregation decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* on May 17, 1954, the U.S. has failed to reach racial equality, much less racial equanimity. But even unfulfilled, what a turning point that was! All that has been accomplished in racial equity since 1954 began then. In another 40 years, the political liberation of the black majority in South Africa from even longer subjugation will probably be viewed as slow and troubled, too.

Assassination fatigue—That's the term used to explain the lack of interest in the recently formed JFK Assassination Records Review Board. Its two-year mission is to try to put to rest the bizarrely competing assassination conspiracy theories by making public all the still-secret documentation on the murder of President Kennedy in 1963.

The ennui showed at the formal opening last month of

Thirty-three freshmen who voted against the measure—some of the now old-looking "new faces" that proponents of term limits say they want to see in Congress—were well rewarded with NRA money. As reported by the Federal Election Commission, here are those freshman members of the House—21 Republicans and 12 Democrats—and how much of the NRA's gun lobby money they received before dutifully voting against reducing death by assault weapon:

Spencer Bachus (R-AL)	\$5,950	Ernest Istook (R-OK)	\$5,950
James Barcia (D-MI)	\$4,500	Jack Kingston (R-GA)	\$14,850
Tom Barlow (D-KY)	\$7,450	Ron Klink (D-PA)	\$5,450
Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)	\$14,850	Joe Knollenberg (R-MI)	\$6,950
Henry Bonilla (R-TX)	\$9,900	John Linder (R-GA)	\$7,400
Steve Buyer (R-IN)	\$4,950	Donald Manzullo (R-IL)	\$4,950
Ken Calvert (R-CA)	\$4,950	John McHugh (R-NY)	\$1,000
Charles Canady (R-FL)	\$1,000	Scott Innis (R-CO)	\$500
Mac Collins (R-GA)	\$1,000	Howard McKeon (R-CA)	\$500
Michael Crapo (R-ID)	\$5,950	John Mica (R-FL)	\$2,000
Pat Danner (D-MO)	\$4,966	Richard Pombo (R-CA)	\$4,950
Nathan Deal (D-GA)	\$4,950	Ed Royce (R-CA)	\$4,950
Robert Goodlatte (R-VA)	\$9,900	Ted Strickland (D-OH)	\$9,900
Rod Grams (R-MN)	\$4,950	Bart Stupak (D-MI)	\$4,000
Gene Green (D-TX)	\$5,222	Frank Tejeda (D-TX)	\$4,950
Earl Hilliard (D-AL)	\$9,850	Karen Thurman (D-FL)	\$2,500
Tim Holden (D-PA)	\$1,000		

Archives II, a massive new repository of the JFK files—and, among others, Richard Nixon's files, too, if they are ever released. The Archives billed President Clinton as the main speaker at the opening, but he and other top politicians didn't appear.

The new Archives annex is on the campus of the University of Maryland, just outside the Beltway in College Park, MD. The National Archive's headquarters remains at its main building downtown, on Pennsylvania Avenue. Eventually, the 520 miles of climate-controlled shelving in the six-story, \$290 million, high-tech archival storage building—nearly half the size of the Pentagon—will be filled with hundreds of millions of letters and memos, 11 million charts and maps, 7 million photographs, 112,700 motion picture reels and more than 200,000 video and audio tapes. The JFK and Nixon share, together, will be a mere fraction—a few million pieces or so.

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